<u>IN THE CLAIMS</u>

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for allowing a seller of items to gather data from e-commerce websites, comprising:

    a. a website server computer connected to the Internet, including a database for storing data about previous sales of a plurality of items on the e-commerce websites,

    b. database management software for maintaining said database,

    c. data gathering software that visits the e-commerce websites to compile said data about said previous sales, and

    d. application software operable to

        allow a seller to request data pertaining to an item to be offered for sale <u>by the seller</u> from the e-commerce websites,

        receive comparison parameters specified by the seller,

        use the comparison parameters to compare the <u>previous sales</u> data gathered from the e-commerce websites that pertains to the item to be offered for sale <u>by the seller</u>, and

        provide a ~~visual representation of~~ <u>graphical user interface (GUI) presenting</u> the comparison of the <u>previous sales</u> data gathered from the e-commerce websites to the seller<u>, the GUI graphically illustrating optimal conditions for offering the item for sale</u>.

2. (Previously Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said data gathering software comprises agent software that, at regular intervals, searches said e-commerce websites to obtain said data about said previous sales.

3. (Previously Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said data gathering software comprises agent software that, at times determined by a seller, searches said e-commerce websites to obtain said data about said previous sales.

4. (Previously Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, further including network connection